

Remarks

Applicants thank Examiners Quang N. Nguyen and Kenneth Coulter for the courtesy of a personal interview held with Applicants' representatives, Jeff Weaver and Lori Gordon, on May 14, 2004, regarding the present application.

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

In the Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Rivette, et al, U.S. Patent 5,623,679 ("679 patent"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The specification states that the present application is a continuation-in-part of the following applications (Specification, page 1, line 20 - page 2, line 4):

"Using Hyperbolic Trees to Visualize Data Generated by Patent-Centric and Group-Oriented Data Processing," invented by Rivette *et al.*, from Appl. No. 08/921,369; Filed: August 29, 1997 (now U.S. Patent 6,339,767),

"System and Method, and Computer Program Product for Managing and Analyzing Intellectual Property (IP) Related Transactions," invented by Rivette *et al.*, Appl. No. 08/138,368; Filed: August 21, 1998,

"Intellectual Property Asset Manager (IPAM) for Context Processing of Data Objects," invented by Rivette *et al.*, from Appl. No. 09/260,079; Filed: March 2, 1999, and

"System and Method, and Computer Program Product for Creating Subnotes Linked to Portions of Data Objects After Entering an Annotation Mode," invented by Rivette *et al.*, Appl. No. 09/057,557; Filed: April 9, 1998 (now U.S. Patent 6,389,434).

Although the specification and Utility Application Transmittal form originally filed with the application includes a continuation-in-part priority claim to these applications, Applicants note that the official filing receipt does not reflect this claim. Therefore, Applicants have co-filed an Application Data Sheet (ADS) that updates the priority of the current application to include these priority claims. Furthermore, the ADS adds priority claims to additional application that are parent applications to the above-listed continuation-in part applications. Thus, the priority data of the present application is now as follows:

This is a non-provisional of provisional application number 60/128,405, filed April 8, 1999.

This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application number 08/921,369, filed August 29, 1997, now U.S. patent number 6,339,767, issued January 15, 2002 which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application number 08/867,392, filed June 2, 1997, now U.S. patent number 5,991,751, issued November 23, 1999.

This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application number 09/138,368, filed August 21, 1998, now abandoned which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application number 08/921,369, filed August 29, 1997, now U.S. patent number 6,339,767, issued January 15, 2002.

This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application number 09/260,079, filed March 2, 1999, now abandoned which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application 09/138,368, filed August 21, 1998, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application number 08/921,369, filed August 29, 1997, now U.S. patent number 6,339,767, issued January 15, 2002.

This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application number 09/057,557, filed April 9, 1998, now U.S. patent number 6,389,434, issued May 14, 2002 which is a continuation of U.S. application number 08/632,801, filed April 17, 1996, now U.S. patent number 5,806,079, issued September 8, 1998, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application number 08/423,676, filed April 18, 1995, now U.S. patent number 5,623,679, issued April 22, 1997, which is continuation-in-part of U.S. application number 08/341,129, filed November 18, 1994, now abandoned, which is a

continuation-in-part of U.S. application number 08/155,752, filed November 19, 1993, now U.S. patent number 5,623,681, issued April 22, 1997.

The additional priority claims shown above may be added because the present application was filed before November 29, 2000 (See 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)). A copy of the co-filed Application Data Sheet is attached to this reply. Thus, Applicants submit that the cited '679 patent is now a priority application for the present application.

Furthermore, Applicants note that the cited '679 patent, and the intervening U.S. Patents No. 6,389,434 and 5,806,079, are commonly owned by the assignee of the present application.

Support for claims 1-20 of the present application is found throughout the cited '679 patent. Examples of support for claims 1-20 found in the present application are provided as follows:

Support for claims 1 and 10 can be found, for example, in Col. 11, lines 36 - Col. 12, line 1; Col. 17, line 40 - Col. 18, line 54; and Fig. 1.

Support for claims 2, 13, and 19 can be found, for example, in Col. 10, lines 11-17.

Support for claims 3 and 14 can be found, for example, in Col. 1, lines 31-39 and Fig. 3.

Support for claims 4 and 15 can be found, for example, in Col. 20, lines 8-17.

Support for claims 5 and 16 can be found, for example, in Col. 17, lines 40-61.

Support for claims 6, 11, and 12 can be found, for example, in Col. 17, lines 44-47.

Support for claims 7 and 17 can be found, for example, in Col. 16, lines 7-31 and Col. 18, lines 15-19.

Support for claims 8 and 9 can be found, for example, in Col. 11, line 10 - Col. 12, line 8.

Support for claims 18 and 20 can be found, for example, in Col. 11, lines 36 - Col. 12, line 1; Col. 17, line 40 - Col. 18, line 54; Col. 20, lines 8-17; and Fig. 1.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the '679 patent is a priority application for the present application, and full support for claims 1-20 is present in the '679 patent. Thus, Applicants assert that the '679 patent is not available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the ground of rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Hohmann *et al.*
Appl. No. 09/545,608

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 5-26-04

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